CLAIMS

1. A system associated with a vehicle comprising:

an active noise cancellation system incorporating a control for determining an appropriate cancellation function, and for communicating with a speaker;

a horn switch to be selectively actuated by an operator of the vehicle; and

said horn switch communicating with said speaker such that when said horn switch is actuated by an operator, said active noise cancellation speaker is actuated to emit a horn sound.

2. A system as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said control is provided with a pause routine to pause canceling should canceling be in progress when a request for a horn actuation is received.

3. A system as set forth in Claim 2, wherein hardware within said control is utilized to actuate said speaker if canceling is not in progress when a horn actuation is requested.

4. A system as set forth in Claim 1, wherein hardware within said control is utilized to cause said speaker to emit said horn sound if said actuation signal is received at a time when the vehicle key is not at an on position.

5. A system as set forth in Claim 4, wherein said hardware is also utilized when said key is at an on position if cancellation is not in progress to cause said speaker to emit said horn sound.

6. A system as set forth in Claim 5, wherein said hardware is a CODEC incorporated into a computer associated with said active noise cancellation system.

7. A method of operating audio components on a vehicle comprising the steps of:

1) providing an active noise cancellation system for generating a signal through a speaker to cancel engine noise, and providing an operator horn switch for selectively requesting a horn signal to be emitted by said speaker.

2) receiving a signal from said horn switch requesting actuation of a horn signal; and

3) utilizing said active noise cancellation speaker to emit a horn signal upon receiving said signal request of step 2.

8. A method as set forth in Claim 7, wherein upon receipt of said request signal, said system determines whether cancellation is in progress, and enters a pause routine if cancellation is in progress when a horn request signal has been received.

9. A method as set forth in Claim 7, wherein a step is taken to determine whether a vehicle ignition is in an on position when the signal of step 2 is received, and if said ignition is not in an on position, then a hardware component of a computer associated with said active noise cancellation system is utilized to generate a signal to said speaker to emit said horn sound.

10. A system associated with a vehicle comprising:

an active noise cancellation system incorporating a control for determining an appropriate cancellation function, and for communicating with a speaker;

a horn switch to be selectively actuated by an operator of the vehicle; and

said horn switch communicating with said speaker such that when said horn switch is actuated by an operator, said active noise cancellation speaker is actuated to emit a horn sound, said control determining initially whether an ignition key is on and whether cancellation is in progress upon receiving a request for a horn tone from said horn switch, said control utilizing a hardware component to generate a horn tone through said speaker if it is determined that said ignition key is not on, or if said noise cancellation is not in progress, and a pause routine being entered in said noise cancellation if said noise cancellation is on when a request for a horn tone is received.